

REMARKS

Claims 1-6 have been examined and have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

I. Preliminary Matters

A. Objection to the drawings

The Examiner has objected to the drawings because Fig. 3 contains some minor typographical errors. Applicant is submitting herewith Proposed Drawing Corrections to overcome this objection.

B. Objection to the specification

The Examiner seems to have objected to the specification under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, for containing terms that are unclear. As a preliminary matter, the specification can only be defective under 35 U.S.C. § 112 first paragraph, if it does not (1) provide adequate written description for particular claim limitations, (2) does not enable one skilled in the art to practice the claimed invention, or (3) does not set forth the best mode for practicing the invention, as contemplated by the inventor at the time of filing the application.

Since the Examiner does not identify any claimed features that are not adequately described or enabled, Applicant submits that the specification cannot be deficient under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, with respect to items (1) and (2) above. Also, with respect to item (3) above, there is no evidence of record that the inventor has failed set forth the best mode for practicing the invention.

In light of the discussion above, Applicant submits that the specification satisfies all of the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph. Nonetheless, Applicant has amended the specification to correct minor typographical errors and submits that the amendments do not introduce new matter into the specification.

C. Objection to the claims

The Examiner has objected to the claims because they contain minor typographical errors. Applicant submits that the amendments to the claims eliminate the errors, do not narrow the scope of the claims, and do not raise any Festo implications.

II. Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph

Claims 1-6 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, for allegedly being indefinite. Applicant submits that the amendments to the claims overcome the rejection. Also, Applicant submits that such amendments do not narrow the scope of the claims or raise any Festo implications.

III. Allowable subject matter

The Examiner has acknowledged that claim 1-6 would be allowable if the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, is overcome. Since the rejection is overcome, Applicant submits that the claims are allowable.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Appln. No. 09/817,235

IV. Newly added claims

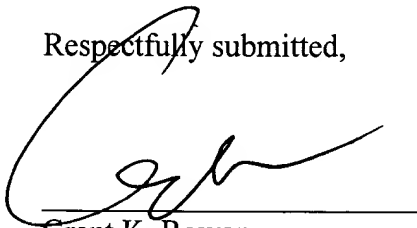
Applicant has added new claims 7-24 to obtain more varied protection for the present invention.

V. Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Applicant hereby petitions for any extension of time which may be required to maintain the pendency of this case, and any required fee, except for the Issue Fee, for such extension is to be charged to Deposit Account No. 19-4880.

Respectfully submitted,



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APPENDIX

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

The specification is changed as follows:

Page 1, first full paragraph:

The present invention relates to a button for an electronic device such as a portable telephone, a remote controller, a portable information terminal, or the like, and particularly to a button having a lighting means for [lightening] lighting the button and a method of controlling the button lighting.

Page 1, second full paragraph:

In an electronic device, and particularly in a portable telephone, a remote controller and the like that are typical of a small-sized portable information terminal, miniaturization and multi-functionalization progress, so that a method that assigns a plurality of parts to one button is used. On the other hand, there is also provided the structure in which a button portion is [lightened] lighted so that the button can be operated even in a dark spot.

Page 2, second full paragraph:

In order to solve the above problem, a button of an electronic device according to the invention is characterized in that in the button of the electronic device including a button in which the plural patterns are displayed in one key top and a lighting means for [lightening] lighting the button, the plural patterns are colored with a plurality of different colors, and that the

lighting means includes a plurality of different luminous colors of which the number is the same as that of the plural patterns.

Page 2, third full paragraph:

Further, in order to solve the above method, a lighting controlling method of a button in an electronic device according to the invention is characterized in that in the method for controlling lighting of button in the electronic device including a button in which plural patterns colored with a plurality of different colors are displayed in one key top, and a lighting means for [lightening] lighting the button with a plurality of different luminous colors of which the number is the same as that of the plural patterns, lighting of the lighting means is controlled so that the luminous color is different from the color of the pattern utilized in the set mode.

Page 3, last full paragraph:

In Fig. 1, each of key tops 11, 12 of plural buttons provided for a portable telephone is made of transparent or semitransparent resin material, which can transmit a light emitted from a red LED 51 and a green LED 52 which function as a lighting means. A box body in which the buttons are placed is formed of material that cannot transmit the lights, whereby when the lighting means of the button emits the light, only the buttons can be [lightened] lighted.

Page 4, third full paragraph:

As a light source of the lighting means for [lightening] lighting these plural buttons from their backsides (the inside of the box body), there are provided the red LED 51 and the green

LED 52. By causing these LED of two colors to emit the light selectively or simultaneously, backlights of three lighting colors; red, green and orange can be obtained.

Paragraph bridging pages 4 and 5:

Next, referring to Fig. 2, the relation among a pattern color of the button, a backlight lighting color, and a mode will be described. When characters for mail writing (i.e. writing electronic mail) are input in the portable telephone, kana input, English character input and numeral input can be selected according to the input character and a character converting method. Setting of the mode means setting of each of the kana input, English character input and numeral input.

Page 6, third full paragraph:

Next, referring to the flowchart shown in Fig. 3, a lighting controlling method of this button will be described. Firstly, whether a mail button for proceeding to a mail-creating mode (i.e. an e-mail creating mode) is pushed by a user or not is judged (step S1). Here, in case that it is judged that the mail button is not pushed (in case of no), the procedure returns again to the step S1 and it is in waiting state in this step till the mail button is pushed.

IN THE CLAIMS:

The claims are amended as follows:

1. (Once amended) A button for an electronic device, comprising:

a button where [plural] a plurality of patterns are displayed on one key top; and
a unit for [lightening] lighting said button;
wherein said plurality of patterns are colored with [plural] a plurality of different colors,
and said [lighting] unit includes a plurality of different lighting colors including the same colors
as those of said [plural] a plurality of patterns.

2. (Once amended) The button according to claim 1, further comprising:
a color switch for switching a lighting color of the plurality different lighting colors of
the unit [a backlight color switch for switching a backlight color according to the lighting color
of said button].

3. (Once amended) The button according to claim 2, wherein said [backlight color
switch switches the backlight] lighting color [so that the lighting color of said button] is
complementary to a particular color of said plurality of different colors of a particular pattern of
said plurality of patterns [the backlight color], and
wherein said particular pattern is a pattern intended to be illuminated by a user.

4. (Once amended) A method of controlling lighting of a button in an electronic
device, comprising [the steps of]:
[preparing] providing a button in which [plural] a plurality of patterns colored with
[plural] a plurality of different colors are displayed on one key top;
[lightening] lighting said button with [plural] a plurality of different lighting colors

including the same colors as those of said [plural] plurality of patterns so that the lighting color is different from the color of the pattern utilized [in a set mode].

5. (Once amended) The method according to claim 4, further comprising [the step of]:

switching [a backlight] the lighting color of the plurality of different lighting colors of the unit [according to the lighting color of said button].

6. (Once amended) The button according to claim 5, wherein said [backlight color switch switches the backlight] lighting color [so that the backlight color] is complementary to a particular color of said plurality of different colors of a particular pattern of said plurality of patterns, and

wherein said particular pattern is a pattern intended to be illuminated by a user [the lighting color of said button].